

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 175

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for a comprehensive management strategy to save the tundra from continued excessive depredations by the mid-continent lesser snow goose.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 1997

Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. CUNNINGHAM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for a comprehensive management strategy to save the tundra from continued excessive depredations by the mid-continent lesser snow goose.

Whereas the tundra ecosystem of North America, including portions located in the United States and in Canada, is a valued international resource that provides habitat for hundreds of different species of nesting birds;

Whereas the population of mid-continent lesser snow geese is increasing at a rate of five percent a year, from 900,000 in 1969 to more than 5,000,000 in 1997, and a majority of these snow geese nest in fragile arctic tundra habitat;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the population of mid-continent lesser snow

geese far exceeds the population goal for this species and the excessive number of mid-continent lesser snow geese is damaging its tundra nesting habitat;

Whereas the overpopulation of mid-continent lesser snow geese is causing irreparable damage to this fragile tundra ecosystem because the overabundant snow geese consume and subsequently destroy large areas of vegetation in vital migratory bird nesting habitats;

Whereas the potential for disease outbreaks among large concentrations of mid-continent lesser snow geese is imminent because of overpopulation;

Whereas continued Government inaction will result in the destruction of thousands of acres of tundra within 12 months; and

Whereas the overpopulation of mid-continent lesser snow geese could cause a decline in other species that nest in the same arctic region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the
 3 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (together with its
 4 State flyway council partners) should take comprehensive
 5 action to utilize the most efficient technological and con-
 6 servation measures, including the modification of manage-
 7 ment practices on public lands, to reduce the population
 8 of mid-continent lesser snow geese to levels that—

9 (1) can be supported without the destruction of
 10 tundra ecosystems; and

- 1 (2) are consistent with sound biological man-
- 2 agement principles.

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